

SERIAL NO. 09/426,644

DOCKET NO. 1349.1022

REMARKSINTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 13-17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 30, 38, 40, and 42 are pending and under consideration.

As discussed with the Examiner in the interview of November 6, 2003 and further to the arguments presented in the Response and Request for Reconsideration entered using the RCE, it is respectfully submitted that the claims distinguish at least over the applied art and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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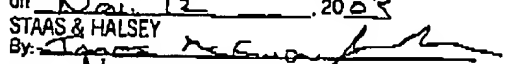
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Date: Nov. 12, 2003CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents,
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on Nov. 12, 2003

STAAS & HALSEY

By: Date Nov. 12, 2003